

Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

WEDNESDAY, 13 April, 2011

5 pm – 8 pm

Seattle City Hall Boards and Commissions Room L280

SPAB members in attendance: Christina Bollo (Chair), Kristen Lohse (Vice Chair), Katherine MacKinnon, Jacob Struiksmma, Betty Arens, Grey Brey, Jon Morgan, Seth Seth Schromen-Wawrin, Mike Chechvala, Devor Barton, Mark Landreneau, Jeniferr Calleja

SDOT staff liaison: Brian Dougherty (SDOT)

Presenters: Eric O'Brien (SDOT); Robert Scully (DPD), Mike Kent, Danielle Goddard Ryan (?), Melrose Promenade Steering Committee

Public:

1. Early presentation on Mercer West – West Mercer Place

Eric O'Brien introduced the Mercer West Project, which spans from Elliott Avenue to SR 99/ Aurora Avenue. The Mercer West Project has divided the corridor into three segments:

1. The underpass area, which involves construction a new underpass of Aurora on Mercer Street with widened sidewalks
2. The conversion of Mercer and Roy Streets from one-way to two-way operations from 5th Avenue to Queen Anne Avenue, and
3. A feasibility study of improvements to West Mercer Place, from 5th Avenue West to Elliott Avenue.

Eric's presentation focused on the feasibility study, which examined the addition of sidewalks, bike lanes and extensions to the existing merge lane, as well as turn lane improvements on Elliott Avenue.

The relevance of West Mercer Place improvements, along with the Mercer West project, is that with the construction of the deep bore tunnel and the elimination of downtown access to and from SR 99, freight and vehicles will use this route to access Ballard and the NW parts of the City.

West Mercer Place rises from Elliott Avenue West at an 8% grade, and lacks continuous sidewalks or truck climbing/merge lanes. The existing roadway is 35' wide, within a 70' right of way. Some of the right of way is unusable due to steep slopes on both sides a perception of the north side as belong to Kinnear Park.

The study looked at 4 alternatives, each which built on one another

Alt 1: Add 8' sidewalk

Alt 2: Add 8' sidewalk & 5' uphill bike lane

Alt 3: Add 8' sidewalk, 5' uphill bike lane, extend merge lane halfway up hill

Alt 4: Add 8' sidewalk, 5' uphill bike lane, extend merge lane to the top of the hill

Alt 5: Extend left turn lane on Elliot Avenue West

Alternative 1-4 involve incrementally increasing lengths of retaining walls, adding to costs.

2. Call to order and introductions

New member introductions:

Devor Barton

Mike Chechvala

Katherine Fountain MacKinnon

Jacob Struiksma

2. Meeting Minute Approval

March meeting minutes were approved, moved by Kristen and seconded by Katherine.

3. Public Comments

No public comment

4. Individual Reports

Christina: Freight

Seth: Wayfinding, convergence of parks and open space

Jon: Streetlights

Greg: Land use and zoning, projects/issues in the U District

Betty: Safety

Jacob: The pedestrian right of way and intruding elements
such as trees, signs, sandwich boards

Mark: Similar focus to Jacob, and street crossings, lighting

Devor: Public outreach, community involvement, bike/ped issues

Jen: Social equity and distribution of resources

Mike: Design and details, retrofitting existing facilities, transit issues, maps and data

Kristen: Bridging the Gap, speed and traffic calming

5. West Seattle Triangle

6. Melrose Promenade